

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”
(Heb. 13:8)

CIRCULAR LETTER

March 2008

We want to send heartfelt greetings to all of you worldwide in the precious Name of our LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ, with the following Scripture from Isa. 14:26-27,

*“This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth:
and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.
For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul
it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?”*

The LORD God has a plan that He will undoubtedly bring to fruition with all nations, with Israel, and with the Church. We can gather from the news reports since the beginning of January 2008 that the world of politics is increasingly concentrating on the Middle East. In particular, Jerusalem is now becoming the focal point of the debates and negotiations. George W. Bush would like to crown his presidency with at least one success, namely with an agreement between the Jewish state and a new Palestinian state. The question is whether it can be accomplished in the time he has left. On January 11, while on his tour of the Middle East, he met Tony Blair, who recently became the European Union’s special envoy for the Middle East. Tony Blair officially converted to Roman Catholicism on December 21, 2007, thereby ensuring the backing of the world power. He chose December 21, 2007, the very day on which the last borders between Eastern and Western European countries fell. Now the last world empire, as seen and foretold by the Prophet Daniel (Dan. 2:40 and 7:23), is taking on its final shape.

The Roman Treaty of March 25, 1957, signed by the six founding nations, is the basis for the United Europe. Every one of the twenty-seven countries currently part of the E.U. has signed the Roman statute. Even the “world court,” the highest court on earth, is based on the “Roman statute of the international court of justice.” Right after the 128 paragraphs, we read at the end, “Transpired in Rome on July 17, 1998.”

Vatican Radio announced via the Internet on February 18, 2008, that Pope Benedict XVI will visit the USA April 15-21. On the agenda are

planned talks with President George W. Bush about the “peace efforts in the Middle East.”

The Vatican intends to place Jerusalem under international status. The exterritorial area is to include the Temple Mountain and go right up to the Mount Zion. It is about two things, which actually belong together: One is an “agreement” in regard to the dividing of land, which is foretold in prophetic Scripture and brings judgement with it,

“... and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.” (Joel 3:2).

The other is a contract about the status of Jerusalem. This year Israel is celebrating its 60th anniversary since becoming a state in 1948. The peace agreement is now within reach and will include the three world religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and their “holy sites.” The Bible speaks about a *covenant*, “*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week ...*” (Dan. 9:27). The Temple Mountain is claimed as a holy place not only by the Jewish people, who do so with their God-given right – for the third Temple will be built once again on its original foundation – but it is also regarded as a holy site by the Islamic religion, along with Mecca and Medina. This will indeed be a religious peace treaty. Then the Scripture in 1. Thess. 5:3 will be fulfilled, “*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*”

We will not go into further detail with this subject at this time. I am writing under the impression that the last phase for Israel is commencing; hence the final phase for the Church is even closer. With all the things happening right now, those of us who know the prophetic Scriptures can hear the end-time bells ringing. Once again it can be said, “*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*” The time for the Church is certainly nearing its end and God will turn to Israel, according to His plan of Salvation (Acts 15:16; Rom. 11:25). The Bride Church may see the first phase fulfilled, but not the realisation of the covenant, as recorded in Dan. 9:27, because she will be taken up before that. Brother Branham said on March 18, 1963, “**And after the church is taken away, Rome and the Jews will make a covenant with one another.**” We are asking, “*Watchman, what of the night?*” The answer is, “*The morning*

cometh ...” (Isa. 21:11-12). The cry is growing ever louder, “Behold, the Bridegroom comes.” The countdown is on.

It is essential that we recognise God’s plan of Salvation and that we take our foreordained places therein. From eternity (Acts 15:18), before time began, that is before the foundation of the world, God made a plan for humanity and a plan of Salvation for His Church.

The Redeemer was ordained before the foundation of the world (Jn. 17:24; 1. Pet. 1:20).

The chosen ones were also foreordained before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

Their names were written in the Lamb’s book of life before the foundation of world (Rev. 13:8).

Jesus began to teach the things which had been kept secret since the foundation of the world (Mt. 13:35).

This plan stretches from the first moment of time to the last, when time merges into eternity.

In the Scripture quoted in the introduction, the concern is the plan of God and the principal question, “... *who shall disannul it?*” Since the very beginning the enemy has tried to disannul this plan. It started with his rebellion in heaven and continues on earth until this day. Everything is written in the Bible, from the first to the last chapter, even the facts about the fall of Lucifer and the fall in the Garden of Eden, although it is conveyed to us in parables and natural pictures. There is only one of two possibilities: Either God Himself reveals His plan to His divinely called messengers, apostles, and prophets, who must proclaim His counsel, or the theologians and scribes give their manifold interpretations. There is always only one right answer, but there are many interpretations. We are solely interested in the *one* correct answer that is confirmed in the Word of God.

“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7).

“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit ...” (Eph. 3:4-5).

“... the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.” (Rev. 10:7).

The great tragedy of the attempt to disannul this plan began in heaven. There Satan gave in to his own will and placed it above the Will of God. The angel of light, the anointed cherub, the son of the morning exalted himself and desired to establish his own throne beside the throne of the Almighty, wanting to be equal to the Most High. Since the beginning his aim has been to disannul God's plan. In the 14th chapter of the Prophet Isaiah we read about Satan's fall (vv. 12-21), and then we are told about God's purpose in verses 26-27, as quoted in the introductory Scripture.

Although encoded, the fall of Lucifer is also described in Eze. 28:11-15. Nevertheless, the description is plain enough when it is revealed to us by God's Holy Spirit. Created by God, decorated with precious stones, he was the picture of perfection and he was already in Eden, the Garden of God. From the beginning he had access to heaven and to paradise on earth. *"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."* (Eze. 28:15).

What happened in paradise is likewise reported in vivid detail and mysteriously encrypted. There Satan, the fallen angel, in spirit form possessed and misused the serpent in order to deceive Eve and to thereby sneak himself into the human race through beguilement and, as a result, pull all of mankind into the fall – the separation from God. Until then there had been no trace of sin, sickness, or suffering. No one had ever heard of any pain or death before. Since the fall, every human being is begotten in the same way as in the original sin. David cried out, *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."* (Ps. 51:7). The LORD God created angels and human beings as a free moral agency – as with Adam, who listened to Eve, just as Eve had listened to the serpent. Eve had the opportunity to decide one way or the other. The same applies to all of us.

From the first deception in the Garden of Eden, every deception goes back to the archdeceiver, to Satan, regardless of whether it is in the natural or spiritual realm or through whom it happens. The enemy has obviously retained the power over the earth. He is the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9); he has become the prince and the god of this world of darkness, until the moment when the following Scripture shall be fulfilled, *"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."* (Rev. 11:15).

On account of the decision that the first humans made under the influence of the evil one, death found its way to all of mankind. Through Jesus Christ, the second Adam, eternal life was restored unto us. *“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”* (1. Cor. 15:21-22). God, Who is Spirit, came into humanity through Christ, His only begotten Son. That was the only way that we could be redeemed out of the fall.

Only those who have received eternal life by the personal experience of Salvation can and will live eternally. *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”* (1. Jn. 5:11-12).

Even after the fall, Satan, as a spirit being, still had access to heaven and there participated in the meetings with the angels. In Job 1:6 we read, *“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.”* The LORD spoke with him and the topic was the servant of God, Job. The same is reported in chapter 2: *“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them ...”* Not just once, but repeatedly the enemy of God was present with the angels, the sons of God, that had gathered in heaven.

During the time of the New Covenant, the enemy, as the accuser of the brethren, still has access to heaven. However, there our Redeemer is present as the Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 8:6), and he speaks for us as the Advocate (1. Jn. 2:1). Although our LORD conquered Satan and saw him fall from heaven (Jn. 12:31), he finally will be cast out for good when the overcomers are taken up: *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”* (Rev. 12:7-12). Satan has pulled down with him the part of the angels who submitted themselves under his influence. Therefore we now have to battle the principalities and forces of darkness, which have been conquered but do not want to surrender, and we have to continue the fight with the help of the full armour of God until we reach our destination (Eph. 6:12-20).

When will God's victory be manifested in His Church?

According to Psalms 110 all enemies are going to be put under the feet of the Redeemer, *"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool."* (Mt. 22:44; Mk. 12:36).

In Heb. 2:8 it states, *"Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet ... But now we see not yet all things put under him."* Now, at the end of the time of grace, the victory at Calvary, the victory of the crucified and resurrected LORD over all the powers of Satan, must be manifested in the believers. The stage of this battle will be the Church, the woman before whom Satan, the old dragon, stands, and who gives birth to those who are raptured (Rev. 12). In Rom. 16:20 the Apostle Paul writes, *"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly."*

Psalms 110 declares that all enemies are placed as a footstool under the feet of our LORD and Redeemer. Then we are told that it has not yet been manifested. And here we read that the God of peace Himself shall crush Satan under our feet. On the day of the fall, the LORD God said to the serpent, *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* (Gen. 3:15). Enmity can only exist between the two entirely different seeds. The elect can never persecute others, for the love of God is poured into their hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5). They are the ones who have always been persecuted. The completion of the Bride Church will happen in the perfect love of God, when the LORD crowns His Work of Redemption with the final victory.

The following applies to the true believers, *"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace ..." (Eph. 2:11-16). A child of God, born-again by the Word and the Spirit, becomes a new person, a peacemaker. The virtues of Jesus Christ are a divine reality and part of our lives. Whoever causes dissension and sows hatred and enmity is possessed and remains under the influence of the evil one.*

We are now faced with the following questions:

Is there a "too late"?

Are there decisions that are final?

Are there some that can be revised and made anew?

Do we have influence on the matter whether the perfect or the permissive Will of God happens with us – or whether it does not happen at all?

Do we decide or know whether we are among the called or the chosen ones, the foolish or the wise virgins? Will it already be manifested now or not until the first or the second resurrection? The decision Lucifer made was final, which is why God did not once offer grace unto him. Therefore he does not know grace, forgiveness, or reconciliation, and the same applies to all those who are under his influence.

The fateful end of the adversary has been decided since the beginning: He shall be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). The destination of those here on earth who decided against God is also final: “*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*” (Rev. 20:11-15). This will take place at the final judgement – there is no appellate court. Equally final is what the LORD has to say to the ones who have been given spiritual gifts but do not submit themselves to the Will of God: “*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*” (Mt. 7:21-23). How terrible will it be for those to whom the LORD will say, “*Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*” (Mt. 25:41)! We should take God’s offer of grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation seriously and work out our salvation with fear and trembling and verify whether we are acting in our own will or in the Will of God!

The promised restoration

In the book of Job we read about all the trials the enemy was allowed to put upon the man of God. There is a colloquial term in the German language known as “Job’s news,” which quite fittingly stands for “really bad news” one might receive. The enemy destroyed everything, until the man of God sat on just ashes. His family and everything around him was wiped out. His own wife said, “*Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.*” We cannot comprehend that such a God-fearing man had to go through so terrible trials. But then we think about our Redeemer, Who after His baptism, during which heaven opened and the Spirit of God came upon Him, was left to bear all the temptations that Satan presented to Him (Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13). HE bore all the reproach and shame imaginable on this earth.

Had it been only about Job and not about the last part of the plan of Salvation with the Church as well, then these 42 chapters in the Bible would have been written in vain. We believe that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for true doctrine (2. Tim. 3:16-17). The story of Job tells us unlike any other in the Old Testament about the last phase of the Church, when the former and the latter rain shall fall at the same time (Joel 2:23; Zech. 10:1). This will happen shortly, just before the Return of Christ. The statement in Jas. 5:7-11 is addressed directly to us in this time: *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the LORD.”* That is the matter at hand: to remain steadfast, to not look at what is visible, not at circumstances, but instead, as Abraham, hold on to the unwavering conviction that God will fulfil all that He promised (Rom. 4:18-22). We cannot look at ourselves or look upon others, cannot listen to slander (2. Cor. 6:8) or follow false prophets, but rather have to stay grounded in the Word of Truth and endure steadfastly until the Return of our LORD. The second half of Jas. 5:7 tells us, *“Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.”* In verse 11 we have the statement, *“Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord ...”*

Job endured patiently during the time of his trials and, in spite of all the accusations, he confessed, *“For I know that my redeemer liveth!”* and *“... shall I see God!”* (Job 19:25-26). He already saw the Mediator, spoke about the atonement, and also said that we shall be returned to the days of our youth and that God will render unto man his righteousness (Job 33:23-28).

The example of Job is of great significance in the plan of Salvation. It shows us what God purposed right from the beginning in regard to His Own and what He will now bring to fulfilment. Even if the LORD allows certain things to happen, if Satan attacks the body and destroys everything around us, if the accuser and slanderer rises up against us, the soul of a child of God cannot be touched. Our coronation will be as it was with Job, right at the end. God answered and restored all things twofold.

The end will be glorious

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” (Isa. 46:10).

As believers of the Bible we are convinced that God will accomplish His plan of Salvation in a marvellous way. Back then our LORD Jesus said to the believers, *“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out ...”* (Lk. 21:20-21). **Please, pay close attention!** They did that as soon as they saw the armies nearing the city. The well-known historian of that time, Josephus Flavius, wrote that all who believed in the Messiah left Jerusalem before it was destroyed in AD 70.

Our LORD further spoke about the things that would happen right toward the end. HE mentioned the signs in the sun and in the moon, perplexity and distress among the nations, earthquakes and famines. Then He said in regard to Israel, *“Behold the fig tree ... So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.”* (Lk. 21; Mt. 24). We are the generation that sees all these things come to pass.

Now the LORD is also addressing the true believers – those who believe and accept His Word and vigilantly watch for the biblical prophecies in their fulfilment, “When ye shall hear of the negotiations about Jerusalem, then take heed. That is the time when all true believers come out and flee from the religious Babylon and return to the LORD and His Word of promise!” We most certainly live in a very special time period in which the biblical prophecies for the end time are being fulfilled before our very eyes. Everything points to the imminent Return of Christ, which no one and nothing can prevent.

Satan could not foil God’s plan in heaven; he could not hinder God’s plan in paradise. Satan could not prevent God’s plan with Israel, not even when he had all the Hebrew children put to death – Moses stayed alive, for he was ordained to be the prophet. The enemy did not succeed when Miriam and Aaron judged God’s servant and questioned whether he was the only one to whom God spoke (Num. 12). He could not spoil God’s plan with Israel when Korah and Dathan along with the 250 elders stood up against Moses, causing a split in the congregation of Israel (Num. 16). Yes, he was the only one to whom God appeared in the burning bush and whom God had ordained to be His prophet with a special commission! In spite of all the difficulties, he carried out his commission until he arrived with God’s people at the border of the Promised Land (Deut. 34). Then God continued His plan with Joshua.

Satan could not destroy God's plan when Herod had all the children under two years of age killed because of the birth of the Redeemer. Satan could not prevent anything that was in God's plan, not even when Judas betrayed our LORD. God always kept watch over all things and ensured that His plan came to fruition. His decision remains for ever valid. THUS SAITH OUR LORD, *"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* That undoubtedly remains true until the day she appears without any spot or wrinkle in His presence in glory (Eph. 5:27).

Even the teachers of heresies that already presented themselves in the days of the apostles could not stand in the way of the plan of Salvation. Neither will the false prophets who make their appearance in the end time be successful in stopping God's plan. The Apostle Peter wrote, *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies ..."* (2. Pt. 2:1). He very clearly pointed out the danger. Even after the Apostle Paul had proclaimed the whole counsel of God, there were men who rose up and introduced heresies, thereby drawing some people away to follow after them (Acts 20:17-32). Until today simple believers are likewise pulled out of the Church and prevented from following Christ by getting drawn into following men who present wrong doctrines.

In the message to the Ephesians the angel of the church was told, *"... thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars."* (Rev. 2:2). Regardless of the claims someone makes, if the proclamation of the Gospel does not agree with the doctrines of the apostles (Acts 2:42), then according to the testimony of the Holy Scripture they are heresies.

In the message to the church in Pergamos the LORD made a very serious complaint, *"... thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam ..."* (Rev. 2:14). It is obvious that the teachings of Balaam were contrary to the doctrines of the apostles. One might deem it impossible that the enemy had found his way into the Church already at the very beginning in order to prevent the plan of Salvation. According to the testimony of the Scripture, the Church of Jesus Christ is the place of divine manifestation on earth, it is the Body of Christ, the pillar and foundation of the truth (1. Tim. 3:15). No lie originates in the truth (1. Jn. 2:21), it is always a perversion of the truth. For instance, a subject can be biblical, but what men say or write about it can be

entirely unscriptural. That is the way it started in the Garden of Eden: Satan stayed with the subject, but not with the truth.

In the message to the angel of the church in Thyatira we read about another grievance, *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants ...”* (Rev. 2:20). It certainly was known that God had placed only apostles, prophets, and teachers, etc., into His Church, but not prophetesses or female apostles and teachers. And yet it happened already during the time of the apostles that a woman presented herself as a prophetess and teacher, seducing the servants of God. It was the intention of the enemy right from the beginning to seduce God’s people.

Through the Prophet Ezekiel God already told us about the intolerable distress that the misuse of spiritual gifts puts on people; it is even killing precious souls. *THUS SAITH THE LORD, “Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?”* (Eze. 13:17-18).

In the church of Thyatira the enemy used a woman who had the gift of prophecy to mislead God’s servants who were impressed by her gift. They were deceived because they did not have the gift of discernment. Even the men who bore the responsibility in the church looked up to her with respect and did not realise that they themselves, and consequently the church they had been entrusted with, had lost the respect toward the Word of God. The gift of prophecy does not make a woman a prophetess, much less a spiritual teacher. The four daughters of Philip had the gift of prophecy (Acts 21), but were not prophetesses.

Prophets placed by God into the Church are part of the fivefold ministry (Eph. 4:11). The gift of prophecy is one of the nine spiritual gifts (1. Cor. 12). In the Old Testament we read about the prophetess Miriam (Ex. 15), about a prophetess Deborah (Jud. 4), about a prophetess Huldah (2. Ki. 22), and about a prophetess that Isaiah took as his wife (Isa. 8:3), but not one of them had a ministry for the Church. The same was the case with the prophetess Anna, as reported in Lk. 2:36-38. All things pertaining to the plan of Salvation were revealed to

His servants, the prophets and the apostles (Eph. 3:5; Rev. 10:7; a. o.). Ministries and gifts must be correctly placed into the divine order and must be left where they belong.

Satan will always interfere wherever the Spirit of God is doing something special in a church. And each time he does it with the same intentions: to destroy the divine order, to question and to twist what God has said, and to cause confusion and discredit the servants of God in order to disrupt the work and plan of God. Nevertheless, the counsel of God shall stand for ever. The Church of Jesus Christ will not be overcome by the powers of hell. The Lamb's Bride may temporarily come out of step, as Brother Branham saw in a vision, but she cannot be deceived. She will be brought back into step and will be ready and sanctified to participate in the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19).

Satan especially rages against the true Church and against Israel, for they do have a special part and purpose in the plan of Salvation. The world would have never heard about any children slain in the old Egypt, if Moses had not been ordained as a prophet for Israel right from his birth. There would never have been any children murdered at Bethlehem, if the Son of God had not been born there.

Let us take a look into our time: Satan left all the great evangelists and churches in peace. There was only one man who had to go through the most severe trials, even in his own church.

It was William Branham, who had been chosen from birth (Jer. 1:5) and consecrated to God right to the end of his life. At seven years of age, he heard a voice speaking to him from a whirlwind, coming from the top of a tree, **“Don't never smoke, or drink, or defile your body in any way. For there'll be a work for you to do when you get older.”** He was a promised prophet with a ministry directly connected to the divine plan of Salvation in the end time. The attacks came from the clergy of the various denominations, and they came because he, as a man sent from God, preached the true, biblical doctrines, which they could not fit into their denominational concepts.

The worst attack was when somebody that was close to him in the beginning reported him to the Internal Revenue Service. Brother Branham apparently did not know the earthly practices as well as he knew the spiritual things in the Kingdom of God. In his meetings people had put checks that were made out in his name into the offering. He

signed them and they were used to pay the expenses of the individual meetings. Then a whole box of those checks was presented to him, and he was accused of having used the money privately without paying any income taxes. The amount in question was half a million dollars. The I.R.S. demanded over three hundred thousand dollars in back taxes. His passport was confiscated and he was not allowed to leave the country. The investigation went on for five years. He spoke to me about it and expressed his regret that he could not accept my invitation to join us for meetings in Germany together with David DuPlessis. The trip he had planned to Sydney, Australia, in 1959 also had to be cancelled because he could not leave the United States. He further told me in confidence the name of the brother who eventually paid the sum of forty thousand dollars on his behalf, the amount agreed upon by the lawyer and the I.R.S.

On November 28, 1963, Brother Branham, among other things, also spoke about the tax case. He said, **“For five years now, I’ve wondered what was wrong. I felt in my heart like I was all crushed down with something, and I couldn’t make out what it was. During the time of this great crushing ... And the government had me under an investigation ... I Owed the government three hundred thousand dollars. And they wouldn’t let me leave, and I had to stay here. ... Now, I felt like I was crushed, for the last four or five years ...”** If the greatest man of God in our time would not have had to fulfil the most important commission in connection with the plan of Salvation (Mal. 4:5-6; Mt. 17:11; Mk. 9:12), then Satan would have left him alone. Once again he said, **“I had been feeling that horrible burden. I’ve cried. I’ve prayed. I’ve confessed. What can I do? What is it that I’ve done?”**

The Prophet Jeremiah also had to experience even back then that his people were defaming him and wanted to report him. That is how it is written, *“For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.”* (Jer. 20:7-13). This can happen to every servant of God. Jealousy forces people to religious persecution, as it happened with Cain, who was a child of the evil one (1. Jn. 3:12). Our LORD foretold what would happen in this regard, *“Yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.”* (Jn. 16:2). We can talk about all these things recorded in the Scriptures, but only when we experience them first-hand do we realise how very devastating the consequences really are.

We can talk about the fall of Lucifer and about his followers, whom he took down with him. We can talk about Eve and how she was deceived, and also about Adam, who was disobedient and therefore was pulled into the fall as well. We can further refer to what happened already in apostolic days in the churches, look back especially to the seven messages to the churches, but the issue at hand is not the past that is far behind us. Our concern now is what God is presently doing and also in what manner Satan sneaked in to disrupt God's plan of Salvation in its end phase.

Many of you can still remember the mighty blessings that happened in the sixties and even more so in the seventies. After Brother Branham was taken home to glory, the end-time message went forth triumphantly from this place into all the world, just as God had ordained it from all eternity. The local church grew spiritually and also in numbers. The blessings of God were felt and experienced in every meeting. During that period of time, the LORD often spoke to us and unveiled the mysteries of His Word, as He had revealed them to His servant and prophet. People came from all over to hear the pure message, the true Word, and to have a personal experience with the resurrected LORD.

This almost "paradisiacal" state, however, did not please the enemy at all. So, toward the end of the seventies, he launched a vicious attack on the work and the local church, trying to destroy the harmony. With Eve the alteration of one word in Gen. 3 sufficed to pull all of humanity into the fall, as Brother Branham emphasised it many times. Here Satan tried to bring down God's work with a fatal blow, through the mouths of those who had separated from the local church, by misusing and perverting one Scripture after the other and one quote after another. The main goal was to discredit and to destroy the servant whom God had ordained to carry His Word. Inconceivable accusations were invented, which even culminated in statements that labelled him as the antichrist, a sodomite, and the deceiver of the Bride. As is typical for an operation like that, it was all orchestrated and circulated behind his back. The Apostle Paul described the actions of such people quite clearly:

*"Their throat is an open sepulchre;
with their tongues they have used deceit;
the poison of asps is under their lips:
Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:
Their feet are swift to shed blood:*

*Destruction and misery are in their ways:
And the way of peace have they not known:
There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Rom. 3:13-18).*

To reach his goal, Satan attacked the marriage by misusing and misinterpreting 1. Cor. 7. As though it were common practice, a woman who had separated from the church suddenly said to her husband, “I can separate from you – I just have to stay single; that is what the Apostle Paul said in 1. Cor. 7.” That was the satanic lie in connection with the planned destruction. However, that is not the way it is written at all, and before verse 11 there still is verse 10, wherein it is written, “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the LORD, Let not the wife depart from her husband.” This was not the Apostle Paul speaking, but the LORD. Is that statement not clear enough? Is it not in agreement with all the other Scriptures that deal with this subject? Does it not coincide with what Brother Branham taught in accordance with the LORD’s command, especially in his sermon “Marriage and divorce”?

In verse 11 we are merely told, just in case it has already happened, “*But if she departed, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband ...*” Not if she at some point in the future decides to depart or to file for divorce, but only when it has already happened, then she should remain alone or be reconciled with her husband. None of the other Scriptures that pertain to this subject were even taken into consideration. Satan only used one Scripture, exploiting a play on words with “separation” and “divorce.”

All who wish to partake in the Rapture must come out of this satanic deception they have succumbed to, whether they were influenced by hearsay or someone’s writing; they must be set free from that spell. Only then the divine order in the church, family, and marriage can be restored, starting with 1. Cor. 11:3, “*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.*”

Just as all the people in Israel who were bitten by the fiery serpents had to look up to the brazen serpent to be healed, in like manner all who have been poisoned by the deadly venom of the serpent must now in faith look up to Christ, the Redeemer, for He is the One Who bruised the serpent’s head. Only by looking, in faith, to the crucified Saviour can they be healed from that deadly spiritual poison (Jn. 3:14-17).

Initially, it seemed as though all had come to an end here in the Mission Center. We had just finished putting up the two buildings, as the LORD had commanded on July 18, 1976, when all hell broke loose. However, God did not allow Satan to cross His plan and blessed us with a new beginning. HE continued His Work according to His Will. Since then, millions of people around the world have heard the true Word, countless souls were saved and many were brought out of spiritual confusion. The preparation of the Bride Church continued, in accordance with the revealed Word.

A few years later, Satan initiated a second strike: On August 25, 1987, someone reported me to the tax revenue office for supposed tax evasion. Only after the conclusion of the proceedings did I find out that it was someone very close to me. Naturally, the officials will believe family members when they make such accusations. Unbeknownst to me, six other men were interrogated as witnesses – brothers who used to be part of the congregation. On account of what was recorded in the official transcript, on Monday, October 31, 1989 (reformation day), six men, revenue and police officers from Düsseldorf, arrived at the Mission Center before eight o'clock in the morning. They searched all private rooms and offices, confiscated all documents and carted them off in boxes. I was being charged with 19 allegations. As a result, the non-profit status of the Mission Center was immediately revoked. They demanded the payment of 340,000 DM in corporation taxes and 220,000 DM in property taxes. We would never have been able to raise those amounts. From the human point of view, this seemed to be the end of the local church and the missionary work, once again.

Without any doubt, it was the LORD Himself Who led the director of the local tax office in Krefeld to speak for me, so that I was not taken into custody as it was originally planned. To the glory of God, I can say that during all the years of the investigation I did not have to cancel a single missionary trip and was able to continue my commission in faithfulness to the LORD. To the utter amazement of all the investigating officers, the lawyers and the courts, after years of thorough examinations there still was not a single irregularity to be found, neither in my private dealings nor in the Mission Center. In December 1999 the High Court in Düsseldorf finally pronounced the “not-guilty” verdict in my presence.

No one can imagine what I went through in all those years of that investigation. Over and over I had to face the accusations. Again and again I had to deal with the lawyers and with the tax revenue office.



Pastor Ewald Frank freut sich über den Sieg vor Gericht: Die freie Volksmission wird wieder als gemeinnützig anerkannt. Die Steuerfahndung gab jetzt die beschlagnahmten Akten zurück. Foto: Ullo

The largest local newspaper gave a detailed report about the victory in court with the headline

“Accusations against the Mission Center were rescinded”

The text underneath the photo reads like this, „Pastor Ewald Frank rejoices about the victory in the court. The “Freie Volksmission” – “Free People’s Mission” has regained its nonprofit status. The authorities have returned the confiscated documents.”

Still, in the end, we experienced anew the manifestation of the victory of the LORD. God was not only with His servant and prophet William Branham during the five years he was under investigation, He was also with me during the many years of the most severe trials. Satan tried with all his might to destroy the confidence in the bearer of the Word and thereby hinder the distribution of the pure end-time message. He could not succeed because the THUS SAITH THE LORD of June 11, 1933, still stands true today: **“As John, the Baptist, was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, the message that is given you will be a forerunner of the second coming of Christ.”** This message is what I continue to carry, by the authority of my divine commission and calling, since Brother Branham was taken to glory.

After a conversation with the person who falsely reported me, during which Rev. Pearry Green was also present, that individual reimbursed the Mission Center part of the related expenses by transferring 30,000 Euros. Yet, until today there is no sign of any feelings of guilt or remorse. Was it indeed final? Is there no going back possible? Will the offer of God’s grace continue to be rejected? Does what God said in the Old Testament no longer apply in the New Testament, specifically the statement, *“Cursed be he that dishonoureth his father or his mother.”*? (Deut. 27:16; Mk. 7:10). Will the character assassination and the murder of souls continue in view of the imminent Return of Christ? Will the enmity last to the very end? How can people who cannot even greet one another claim to be truly ready for the Rapture? Today I call upon all those who believe God’s message to start praying and fasting, so that

God might put a stop to all the attacks of the enemy and complete His Work of grace in a wonderful way.

I do not complain and I do not accuse. I rejoice in the fact that, also, not one of the personal accusations is true (Mt. 5:10-12). If just one of them were true, then the LORD Himself would have made His first mistake when He commissioned me. God knows all things, and everyone must now decide whether to believe the words of God or those of the slanderers. The Apostle Paul dedicated an entire chapter, namely 2. Cor. 11, to recount all the trials he had to go through, as he had previously done in chapter 6. Today I can proclaim, just as he did in his time, *“Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.”* (2. Tim. 4:17).

In the early church the apostles and elders carried the responsibility for all doctrinal decisions (Acts 15; a. o.), for God has placed the different ministries only into the church, and they are given for the edification of the congregation. Furthermore, there was always only one local church in each of the different cities. Divisions are always the work of the enemy. In view of the impending Return of Jesus Christ, it must be emphasised that the believers at the beginning were under the direct guidance of the Holy Ghost and therefore very close to one another. There were no divisions back then, no false brethren, and no wrong teachings. We are now experiencing that we are being brought back to the very beginning. That is why all divisions, which are caused by strange teachings, must cease immediately, and solely the pure doctrines of the Bible must be proclaimed.

The unity of a local church is very important. Our LORD said, *“A kingdom, a house - and certainly a church - divided against itself shall not stand ...”* and *“He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.”*

During the time of the crisis, Brother Branham asked the congregation of the Tabernacle to give the following pledge, **“I solemnly promise to support the Branham Tabernacle in all its programs directed by its Pastor Rev. William Branham. I promise not to speak against Bro. Branham or any of his programs and will rebuke any one that does such. I will stand by him right or wrong, as he stands for God. Amen.”**

THUS SAITH THE LORD, speaking to His Own, *“Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.*

Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.

Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together and come to thee ...” (Isa. 49:16-18).

Where does God’s Word place us?

The Apostle Paul mentioned several brothers, among them Phygellus and Hermogenes, who had turned away from him in Asia (2. Tim. 1:15). He mentioned Hymenaeus and Philetus, who spread vain babblings, and stated that their speech was like a cancer, for they were claiming that the resurrection had already taken place (2. Tim. 2:17). It was no longer the preaching of the Word, but useless, vain talk by those who had erred concerning the truth (2. Tim. 2:18). Paul even compared such men to Jannes and Jambres (2. Tim. 3:8). Such men are neither apostles nor prophets nor teachers. The LORD only speaks to those who are in His Church. Every true message is always addressed to the Church, which has been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb and therefore remains under the protection of the Blood. Whoever separates from the Church is no longer under the cover of the blood. They then form groups that walk in their own ways and, exactly like the denominations, no longer listen to what the Spirit says unto the churches.

Every group that comes into existence through rebellion and splits from the Church of Jesus Christ is, in reality, just a religious association. The Holy Scripture describes them as despisers. The Church of Israel stayed with Moses; those who joined forces against him followed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. That is the way of Cain, the error of Balaam, and the gainsaying of Korah (Jude); they have left the right way (2. Pt. 2:15). These men were despisers of the LORD (Num. 16:30). They rejected the commission of Moses and hence were despisers of God, Who had called Him. The following always applies in such cases, *“Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.”* (Acts 13:41).

What about all of the accusers, the despisers, and the slanderers, who are willingly serving the enemy and are consequently under a curse? Who will wisely use the last moments of the time of grace and be delivered from the spell of Satan? Who will ask forgiveness and

experience reconciliation? Or was their decision indeed final? Who has for ever crossed the line as Judas did? Every person who has been drawn into the deception, caused here by Satan himself – just as in heaven and in the Garden of Eden, should not harden his or her heart any longer.

Many precious souls have fallen prey to the worst, religion-cloaked deception, to the spiritually presented fraud, and the effect thereof extends worldwide. What about the responsible initiators? And what about those who joined them and thus became guilty as well? Who will find the way to repentance? Those who did not participate deliberately and wilfully have not sinned against the Blood and the Body of Christ for ever; they should let go of their pride and return to the LORD.

All the interpretations making the rounds within the circles of the message must also cease immediately. It really does not suffice when brothers only cite the prophet; they must also be able to back it up with the Word of God. All those who have been disappointed because they listened to and looked upon men should now look upon the LORD and trust in Him, so they will never be disheartened again. The good Shepherd calls all the wandering and lost sheep. May they hear His Voice and return to Him. In addition, all ministering brethren who have come under the wrong influence should free themselves from the snare of the enemy (2. Tim. 2:26). Only when the unity becomes evident among those who preach the Word can there be true unity in the Church as a whole.

Satan has been conquered; he has for ever lost any claim to the Redeemed. Together with all his forces he will be placed at the footstool of the great Conqueror, and this victory will be manifested in the Church of Jesus Christ. It will all be worth it in the end, for the sake of the elect, who will not be beguiled any longer, who will not partake in any character assassination or slander; instead, they will find grace with God and take their rightful places in the Church of the first-born.

In faith I continue to hold on to the Word found in the Prophet Isaiah 54:17, *“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”*

In accordance with my responsibility before God, I will continue to carry the everlasting Word until I am taken up to glory along with all

those who have prepared themselves, the way I saw and experienced it in January 1981. Knowing how very short the remaining time is, I am even more compelled to admonish everyone in the Name of Jesus Christ. Satan can cause interruptions – he has done that since the beginning – but he cannot disannul God’s plan with the Bride Church.

After the departure of Brother Branham, I was the one to take the divine message to every continent on earth, according to my commission by the ever-true God. By 1979 I had visited 86 countries, by now that number has grown to 136 countries, and God has granted much fruit. To Him be the glory for that. In the seventies we were seating four to five hundred people here in the Mission Center, and now there are between seven and nine hundred in attendance at times. In the seventies mainly people from the German-speaking countries attended the services, these days they are coming from all over Europe and the whole world. Back then the sermons were only available in the German language, today the sermons are simultaneously being translated into twelve different languages, of which seven can be heard live worldwide via the Internet.

I am not writing on my behalf; I am writing by the commission of God. My concern is not to defend myself, but to defend the Word of God and the crystal-clear and true message of the end time. All these things did not happen to me because my name is Ewald Frank, but rather because I had received the direct calling, like Moses and Joshua, like Elijah and Elisha, like Peter and Paul, and like William Branham. On December 3, 1962, he was the one who confirmed the divine calling I had received from the LORD, while we were in the presence of two witnesses, namely Fred Sothman and Banks Wood. My ministry is directly connected to his ministry, in accordance with the plan of Salvation.

Brother Branham repeatedly made the statement, “**No man has a right to preach ‘less he like Moses, meets Him out there in that sacred grounds ...’**” I need to add, “No man has the right to claim he has been called to a ministry that is a part of the plan of Salvation unless he can testify that he had an experience like the Apostle Paul, who actually heard the Voice of the resurrected LORD, as I heard it on April 2, 1962.” What our LORD said about the ones He sends shall remain true for all eternity: “*He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.*” (Lk. 10:16). Everybody now has to personally decide whether to believe or not, whether to obey or not. Each individual will have to face his or

her decision again on that day, when it comes down to being placed to the left or to the right, when we shall either hear the words, “*Come, ye blessed of My Father*” or “*Depart from Me, ye cursed ...!*” Both will be final.

Epilogue

Now we can leave all things in our past behind us and forget them, as long as we have brought them under the Blood and have received forgiveness. This is the only way we can move forward together, fully believing that God will have His way with us (1. Pt. 1:13). The ever-true LORD will complete His work of Redemption, just as He completed His work of creation. William Branham was the man sent from God through whose ministry the hearts of God’s children were turned back to the faith of the apostolic fathers in the beginning. At first it was a promise, now it is the fulfilment. What Brother Branham was told remains true as well, namely that not he but the message given to him will forerun the second coming of Christ, as he emphasised it himself many times, especially on February 9, 1959, “**Not that I would be the forerunner, but the message was the forerunner!**” This was still an announcement on June 11, 1933, but since the departure of Brother Branham it has become a reality upon the whole earth.

On July 26, 1964, Brother Branham posed and answered this question during his sermon, “**Restore what? In this last days ... You denominational brethren, listen. Restore the Pentecostal original feast like it was at the beginning.**” At the end the Church has to be as she was at the beginning. In the book of Job we read that he was given a twofold restoration of all things when he prayed for his friends who had not understood him during his trials. This shall now also be done for my part. With all my heart I can pray, “Father, forgive them, for they did not know and still do not know what they are doing as long as they are under the influence of the evil one!” May it happen as it did with Job, that all brothers and sisters, all former friends return and rejoice with us.

“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil ...” (Job 42:10-11).

We should not hold any grudge against one another, as James wrote, instead we should follow the example set for us by the patient endurance of the prophets who spoke in the Name of the LORD. We shall remain steadfast and strive to be found in the Will of God. May God grant us all the respect toward Him, His Word, and His decisions, for only then can we partake in what He is presently doing. May the pleasure of God rest upon His people. Satan cannot hinder the plan of God. What God purposed in eternity shall happen at the predetermined time, and we will see the final fulfilment in Jesus' holy Name.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the brothers in the many different countries who remain true to the Word and the message and faithfully assist in the distribution of the spiritual food. Shalom! Maranatha!

By His commission

Bro. Frank

*

THUS SAITH THE LORD in the beatitudes:

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Mt. 5:8-12)

If you are interested in receiving our literature,
you may write to the address below:

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P.O. Box 100707
47707 Krefeld
Germany

You can also tune in on the Internet for our monthly meetings on the first weekend of each month: on Saturday evening at 19:30 h (Central European Time), on Sunday morning at 10:00 h (Central European Time). The sermons can be heard in seven different languages worldwide. The Zurich meetings can be accessed online on the last Sunday of every month at 14:00 h (Central European Time) and are available in German and French. Have part in what God is presently doing according to His Plan of Salvation!

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